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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In early February 1954 VEB Roehrenwerk Anna Seghers in Neubrandenburg and VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen RFT in Berlin-Oberschoenheweide 1/ reported to the Main Administration for Radio Telecommunications (HV RFT) of the East German Ministry for Machine Construction that their production of high vacuum tubes was being severely handicapped by the lack of iron E and iron EA. The reports of the two factories stated that the entire vacuum tube industry in East Germany is seriously threatened in 1954 - as it was in 1953 - by the lack of these special kinds of iron. Attempts to produce them in East Germany have failed so far with respect to quantity as well as quality.
2. One of the attempts undertaken to overcome the East German shortage of iron E and iron EA was made in the Stahl-und Walzwerk Hennigsdorf, where fifteen metric tons of iron material delivered by VEB Edlelstaalwerk Doehlen were to be rolled. The attempt was abandoned after the rolling of one ton resulted in unusable material. Another attempt will be made shortly on the strength of a proposal made by Prof. Ing. Maurer (fnu) of the Eisenforschungsinstitut Hennigsdorf. Five metric tons of the Doehlen material are to be melted in the electrical furnaces of Stahlwerk Riesa and pre-rolled there to a thickness of 3.5 millimeters. Further processing of the material is then to be done at VEB Halbzeugwerk Auerhammer.
3. Unless the attempts now undertaken to produce satisfactory iron E and iron EA in East Germany are successful - which is not to be expected in the near future - the East German high vacuum industry will remain entirely dependent upon imports from the West.

25X1A 1/ Comment. This is the official name of this enterprise since 1 January 1954. It was formerly called RF Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen and before that Oberspreewerk (OSW).

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